



**Rebuilding the System,
Reducing the Risk
Draft**

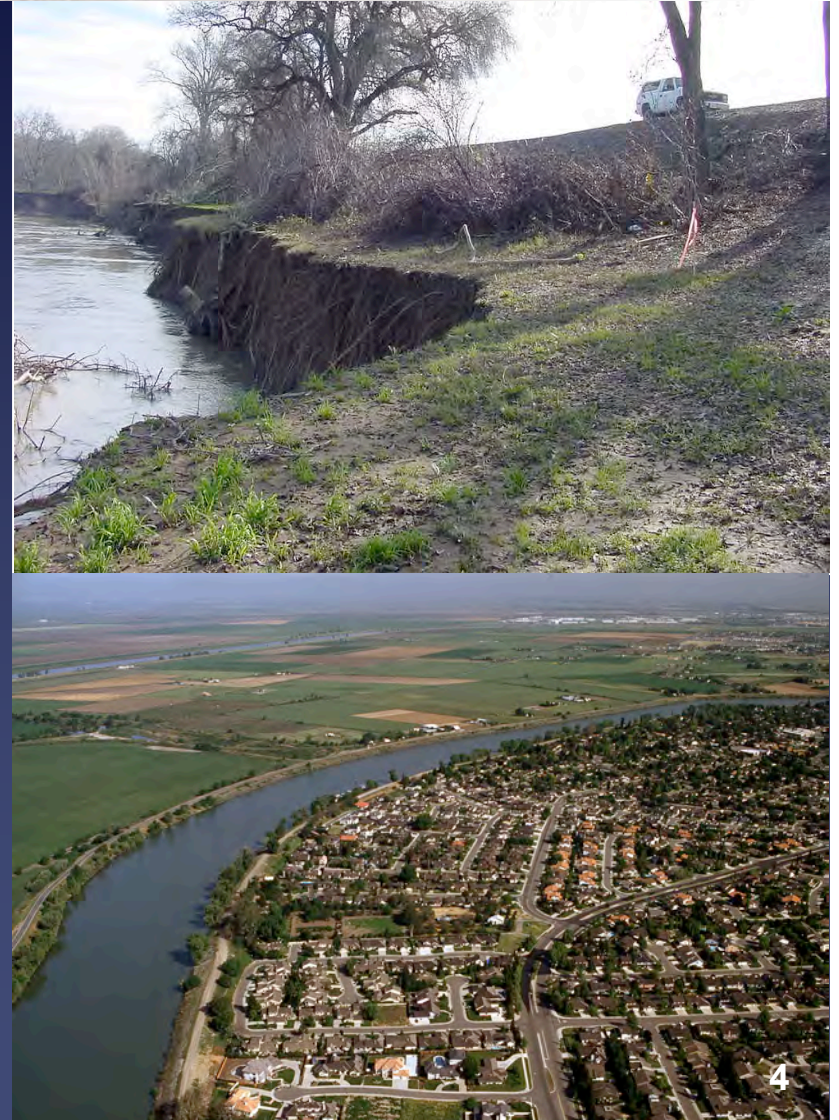
Every region of California faces flood risks.





- California's most extensive flooding can occur in the Central Valley.
- Early Californians recognized the need for flood protection, and built a visionary project that has protected the heart of California for a century.
- The system was successfully designed to protect pioneer farms and flush hydraulic mining sediments from the system.

- Today, conditions have changed and we have found that the system has many deficiencies and is aging.
- Rivers now erode levees in many reaches.
- Behind many levees are homes, not farms.



- Other regions, including coastal streams and alluvial fans, face their own flood challenges.
- Delta levees protect the water supply for most of the State, but are fragile and susceptible to failure.
- When Central Valley State-federal Project levees fail, every taxpayer is affected.



- In 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger drew attention to the crisis, and called for improved maintenance, system rehabilitation, effective emergency response, and sustainable funding.



floodSAFE CALIFORNIA

Department of Water Resources



- Some of the 2005 goals have been achieved. Voters have approved nearly \$5 billion in bond funds to improve flood management, and the Legislature and Governor have supported additional emergency appropriations. Levee repairs and improvements are underway.

- In the past year, the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and flooding in California have highlighted the need for better flood protection.
- At the same time, we are gaining a better understanding of climate change and its potential effects.
- We can learn lessons from recent tragic flooding to make Californians safer.



- Reminders from Hurricane Katrina:
 - Major urban flooding is tragic and deadly, recovery is slow and uncertain
 - Degradation of environmental systems can aggravate flood damage
 - A piecemeal approach to flood management provides inadequate protection
 - Emergency response preparations are necessary to be ready for rare events
- California's 2006 floods showed that our system is fragile, deteriorating, and does not provide the protection we need.
- Climate change will further increase flood risks if not addressed.



floodSAFE California:

A strategic initiative underdevelopment by the Department of Water Resources to improve flood protection for the people of California

The goals of **floodSAFE** California are:

1. Reduce flood risk to the people of California, their homes and property.
2. Develop a sustainable flood management system for the future.
3. Reduce the consequences of floods when they do occur.

Guiding Principles for a floodSAFE California:

1. Flood risk management must be approached and improved on a system-wide basis, taking into account varied land uses and flood protection needs.
2. Land use planning must be connected to flood risk management.
3. Regional coordination is essential to improve flood protection.
4. In the face of climate change uncertainty, flood systems must be resilient in order to be sustainable.
5. Projects that offer multiple or regional benefits, including those that restore natural floodplain processes, will be more desirable and cost-effective.
6. Information about flood risks will help families and communities to make safer decisions.

Elements of the floodSAFE California program:

1. Work with federal, State, and local partners to establish clear roles and responsibilities for both State-owned and local flood management projects
2. Evaluate levees and delineate floodplains to understand the level of flood risk
3. Repair facilities having an imminent risk of failure
4. Repair and improve urban levees to achieve at least 200-year protection
5. Repair and improve rural levees to a base level of protection appropriate for agriculture, open space, and floodplains
6. Prioritize projects to make improvements quickly and use funds wisely

Elements of the floodSAFE California program (cont'd):

7. Pursue flood risk management reform: increase federal involvement, connect land use and flood management, develop appropriate cost-sharing rules, ensure adequate long-term maintenance
8. Employ new or enlarged flood bypasses, flood corridors, flowage easements, setback levees, and floodplain storage where feasible for regional improvements
9. Establish conservation banks to avoid delaying flood protection projects
10. Revise and coordinate reservoir operation for better flood control
11. Provide information to communities and households on flood risk and how to reduce or avoid it

Implementation Vision

- The State of California will take the lead in many elements such as levee evaluations, improved reservoir operation, floodplain delineation, and developing a new **California Flood Plan**: a statewide strategic plan identifying the policies and facilities to implement the floodSAFE California initiative.
- Local and regional partners will work with the State to develop and implement regional flood management programs to provide flood protection for their communities consistent with the goals and principles of floodSAFE California and for inclusion in the **California Flood Plan**.
- The State will move quickly to facilitate development of regional plans and to fund or implement early actions that are consistent with State goals and principles.

- The **California Flood Plan** will be developed over time in cooperation with local interests, partners, and stakeholders. It will include the following elements:
 - Determination of bond priorities and expenditures
 - Updated **State Plan of Flood Control** for the Central Valley
 - Flood Control Subventions
 - Delta Levee Program
 - Grants to local agencies
- Related current programs include:
 - Improvements to daily DWR flood management activities (e.g. inspection, maintenance, emergency response preparations, etc...)
 - AB 142 Critical Levee Repairs
 - AB 142 Levee Evaluations of Project levees protecting urban areas in the Central Valley
 - Delta Risk Management Strategy
 - Delta Vision
 - FEMA floodplain map modernization

Flood Project Funding will Focus on:

- Facilities having an imminent risk of failure
- Repairs or improvements that contribute to 200-year flood protection for existing urban areas
- Repairs or improvements that contribute to restoration of base level of protection for rural areas
- Repairs or improvements that contribute to improved regional flood protection
- Repairs or improvements that increase the sustainability of the system and make it easier to maintain

2006 Bond Funding

Funding Category	Prop. 1E	Prop. 84
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State-Federal Project Levees, Weirs, Bypasses, and other Flood Management Facilities • Non-Project Flood Management Facilities • Reducing the Risks of Levee Failures in the Delta 	\$ 3 billion	\$550 million
Flood Control Subventions	\$500 million	\$180 million
Flood Corridors, Bypasses, and Mapping	\$290 million	\$ 70 million
Stormwater Flood Management Grants	\$300 million	--
Total	\$4.09 billion	\$800 million

Early Implementation -- Required Project Criteria for State-federal Project Facilities

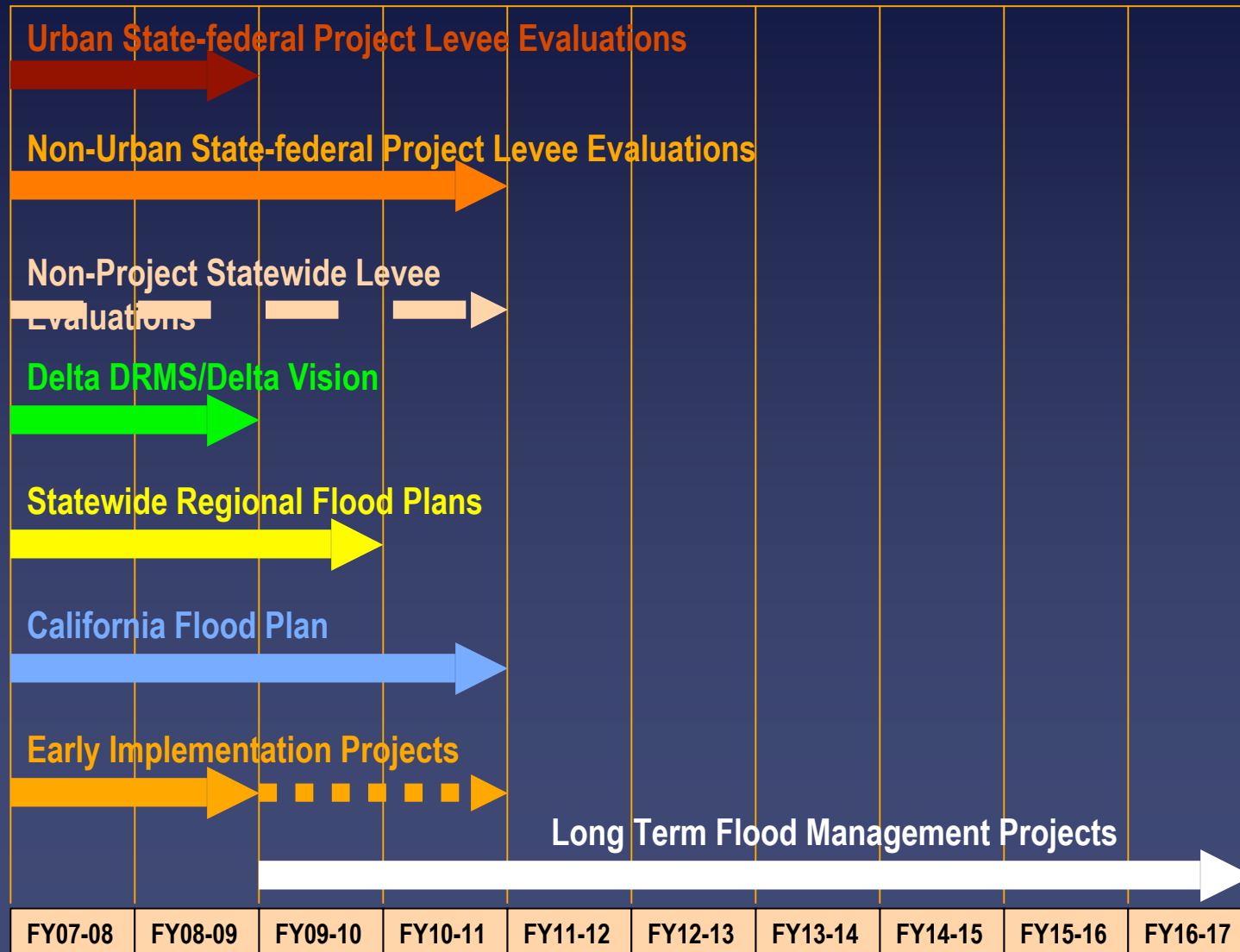
- The project is ready for early implementation, needs funding in the budget year to maintain or accelerate the construction schedule
- The project significantly enhances public safety and/or reduces State liability
- The project is economically feasible
- If the project will protect an existing urban area, there is a strategy for achieving 200-year or better flood protection for the area and the project fits into the strategy
- If the project will protect a non-urban area, it will restore a base level of flood protection and preserve rural values in the protected area

Early Implementation -- Required Project Criteria for State-federal Project Facilities (cont'd)

- If the project would improve the levee in place, it is because it is clearly infeasible to move the levee and/or there are no significant flood control benefits to moving the levee
- The project takes advantage of any feasible opportunities to provide additional room for the river to meander, enhancing channel capacity, reducing maintenance, and providing regional flood control and environmental benefits
- The local agency has a sound financial strategy to fund its cost-share to build the project, and to then adequately maintain the completed project
- The local agency agrees to provide a detailed emergency response plan acceptable to the Department

Early Implementation -- Desirable Project Criteria for State-federal Project Facilities

- Eligible for federal cost sharing, crediting, or reimbursement
- There is broad local support and agency support for early implementation of the project
- The local maintaining agency has a record of good maintenance
- The local land use agencies benefiting from the project will agree to indemnify and hold harmless the State



Past Legislative Reform Efforts

- AB 798 (Wolk) – extends Delta Subventions (enacted)
- AB 802 (Wolk) – flood consideration in general plans
- AB 1528 (Jones) – shared liability
- AB 1665 (Laird) – reports, maps, maintenance area, ecosystem
- AB 1899 (Wolk) – protection certification for new development
- AB 2208 (Jones) – study Delta “beneficiary pays”
- AB 2500 (Laird) – emergency plans
- AB 3022 (Umberg) – developers notify of risk and fund insurance
- ACA 30 (Laird) – narrows protests for Prop. 218 for flood repairs
- SB 1796 (Florez) – new Reclamation Board requirements and flood plan

2007 Flood Legislation (as of 12/8/06)

- AB 5 (Wolk) – development restrictions and flood control incentives
- AB 26 (Nakanishi) – natural community conservation planning
- AB 41 (La Malfa) – surface storage increase using Prop 1E and 84 funds
- AB 70 (Jones) – city or county joint liability for flood-related damage
- SB 5 (Machado) – comprehensive integrated flood policy
- SB 6 (Oropeza) – flood hazard map/survey for new subdivisions
- SB 17 (Florez) – creation of Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- SB 34 (Torlakson) – user fees for levee maintenance and flood control